



**Constitution of the
Sons of The American Legion
Independence Squadron 275
Independence, Kentucky**

This Constitution is in full force and effect as adopted by the Sons of The American Legion, Independence Squadron 275, on September 18, 2004

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PREAMBLE

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of the Great Wars, associate ourselves together as "Sons of The American Legion" for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism; to preserve the memories of our former members and the associations of our members and our forefathers in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness; to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands; and to assist in carrying on for God and Country.

ARTICLE I NAME

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Sons of The American Legion, Moon Brothers Squadron 275, attached to Moon Brothers Post No. 275, The American Legion, Department of Kentucky.

ARTICLE II NATURE

Section 1. The Sons of The American Legion is a civilian organization. Membership therein neither increases nor decreases liability for military or police service.

Section 2. The Sons of The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpartisan and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.

Section 3. The Sons of The American Legion shall be absolutely non-sectarian.

Section 4. Each member shall perform his full duty as an American citizen according to his own conscience and understanding, in accordance with the laws of the United States of America.

ARTICLE III ORGANIZATION

Section 1. This Squadron is organized as a subordinate body of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Kentucky and under the sponsorship and jurisdiction of Moon Brothers Post No. 275, Department of Kentucky, The American Legion.

Section 2. In addition to the provisions of this Constitution, this Squadron shall be governed by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, by such rules and regulations as may be adopted by the Detachment Executive Committee of the Kentucky Sons of The American Legion, and by such rules and regulations as may be adopted by Moon Brothers Post 275, The American Legion, not inconsistent with those prescribed by the S.A.L. National Organization.

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP & ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. All direct male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such direct male descendants of veterans who died in service during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, and the Persian Gulf War, as defined in the Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion.

Section 2. There shall be no form of membership except an active membership.

Section 3. Membership in the Sons of The American Legion is membership in the National Organization of the Sons of The American Legion by affiliation with this Squadron.

Section 4. The Squadron shall be the judge of its own membership subject to the restrictions of the National Constitution and By Laws of the Sons of The American Legion.

Section 5. Applications for membership shall be made in writing on application forms provided by the National Organization, and shall be acted upon at the next regular Squadron meeting following the receipt of such application by any member or officer of the Squadron. A majority of votes cast in the affirmative by Squadron members present and voting shall constitute acceptance of the applicant into membership.

Section 6. Members may be suspended or expelled under the same procedures provided for suspension or expulsion of a member of The American Legion.

ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP DUES

Section 1. The annual membership dues of this Squadron shall include the approved National and Detachment per capita dues, and shall be established annually by vote of the Squadron at or before its regular monthly meeting in August for the succeeding membership year beginning January 1.

Section 2. The amount of such annual membership dues shall be published to all members and payable beginning September 1 of each year, for the following membership year beginning January 1.

Section 3. Membership dues are payable September 1 of each year for the following membership year which extends from January 1 to December 31.

Section 4. A member whose dues for the current year have not been paid by January first shall be classified as delinquent. If his dues are paid on or before February first, he shall be automatically reinstated. If he is still delinquent after February first, he shall be suspended from all privileges. If he is still under such suspension on June thirtieth of such year, his membership in the Sons of The American Legion shall be forfeited. A member so suspended or whose membership has been so forfeited may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by vote of the Squadron and payment of current dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs. Provided, however, that the Squadrons; Detachments, and the National Organization may waive the provisions hereof, upon payment of dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs, with reference to former or current members who have been or are prevented from the payment of dues by reason of active military service.

ARTICLE VI SQUADRON OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of this Squadron shall be a Commander, Vice Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Chaplain and Historian. All officers shall be elected at the regular monthly meeting of the Squadron held in April each year.

Section 2. The Squadron may establish additional officers as it deems necessary and shall decide the selection method for such officers.

Section 3. Any member in good standing is eligible to hold office in the Squadron.

Section 4. Elected officers shall hold their offices for a period of one (1) year from the time of their election or until such time as their successors are chosen. All appointed officers shall hold their offices concurrent with the term of the elected Squadron officers.

Section 5. Vacancies occurring in offices between elections shall be filled by appointment of the Commander with the consent of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VII NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Nominations for Squadron Office may be accepted no earlier than the regular monthly meeting of the Squadron held in March each year. Elections for Squadron Office shall be held during the regular monthly meeting of the Squadron held in April each year.

Section 2. Any Squadron member in good standing may present the name of any Squadron member in good standing for nomination to any Squadron office. Nominations do not require a second.

Section 3. Those officers who have received a majority of the votes of the Squadron members in good standing present at the meeting shall be declared elected.

Section 4. The newly-elected Squadron officers shall take office at the next regular Squadron meeting following their election, at which time they shall be installed by proper authority, selected by the newly-elected Squadron Commander.

ARTICLE VIII DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The Commander shall be the chief executive officer of this Squadron of the Sons of the American Legion, with full power to enforce the provisions of this Squadron Constitution, and the policies and mandates of the National and Detachment Organizations of the Sons of The American Legion.

Section 2. The Vice Commander shall act as the deputy to and representative of the Commander on all matters referred to him and shall specifically be responsible for sustaining and augmenting the Squadron's membership. In the absence, removal, or resignation of the Squadron Commander, he shall serve as Acting Squadron Commander and shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Section 3. The Adjutant shall serve as the chief administrative officer of this Squadron and be charged with the administrative duties required to carry out the policies and mandates of the National and Detachment Organizations of the Sons of The American Legion and of this Squadron. He shall issue and receive all correspondence for the Squadron, shall maintain all official Squadron records and certify all Squadron officers and Squadron delegates to the Annual Detachment Convention.

Section 4. The Finance Officer shall be the custodian of the Squadron Treasury. He shall be charged with receiving and disbursing the funds of the Squadron; provided, however, that any disbursement shall first be approved at any regular monthly meeting of the Squadron. He shall make reports upon the condition of the Squadron treasury at each regular monthly meeting of the Squadron and at such other times when requested by the Commander or the Executive Committee.

Section 5. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be charged with the responsibility of preserving order at all Squadron meetings. He shall have custody of the Squadron Colors and shall be responsible for all physical assets of the Squadron. He shall provide an annual inventory report of such physical assets and perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Section 6. The Chaplain shall perform such divine and nonsectarian services as may be requested or appropriate at all regular Squadron meetings and events, adhering to such ceremonial rituals as may be prescribed by the National Organization of the Sons of The American Legion.

Section 7. The Historian shall serve as archivist and history information officer for the Squadron. He shall be responsible for collecting and disseminating records, artifacts and data of historical interest and value to the Sons of The American Legion.

Section 8. The Chairman of the Post 275 S.A.L. Advisory Committee shall be recognized by the Squadron as its Advisor, to provide advice and counsel to the Squadron and to serve as the Squadron's liaison to the Post.

ARTICLE IX SQUADRON MEETINGS

Section 1. The regular meeting of this Squadron shall be held not less than once a month at a standard day and time chosen by the Squadron. The location of such meeting shall be at the discretion of the Squadron Commander; provided, however, that the day, date, time, and location of all Squadron meetings, regular or special, shall be published to all members not less than fifteen (15) days in advance of such meeting.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called upon a majority vote of the Executive Committee or upon the written request to the Squadron Adjutant of five (5) Squadron members in good standing. The notice of special meetings shall state the object and purpose thereof, and no business may be transacted at such special meeting except for such business as is contained in the notice thereof.

Section 3. Five (5) members shall constitute a quorum for the legal transaction of business at any meeting of the Squadron.

Section 4. All Squadron meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Roberts' Rules of Order, Revised.

ARTICLE X COMMITTEES –EXECUTIVE, STANDING, & SPECIAL

Section 1. Between Squadron meetings, the administrative power of the Squadron shall be vested in the Squadron Executive Committee, which shall consist of all elected and appointed Squadron officers and the Squadron Advisor.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the Commander as often as he may deem necessary. Four (4) officers shall constitute a quorum for the legal transaction of business at any meeting of the Executive Committee.

Section 3. The Squadron may establish such other standing and ad hoc committees as it deems necessary and appropriate, with the membership and chairman of such committees to be appointed by the Squadron Commander.

Section 4. Such committees shall report on their activities at each regular meeting of the Squadron or at the request of the Squadron Commander.

Section 5. All committees appointed shall serve for a term concurrent with the appointing authority.

ARTICLE XI FINANCES

Section 1. All funds of this Squadron shall be held in the Squadron Treasury which shall be on deposit in a bank. Withdrawals shall only be made upon check signed by the Finance Officer and such other Squadron Officers as selected by the Squadron.

Section 2. The management and administration of the Squadron Treasury shall be in accordance with the Squadron's approved fiscal policy.

ARTICLE XII BY LAWS

Section 1. The By Laws of this Squadron shall consist of such policies that may from time to time be adopted by the Squadron.

Section 2. Such policies adopted shall not conflict with the provisions of this Constitution, or the National and Detachment Constitutions and By Laws of the Sons of The American Legion.

Section 3. The Squadron By Laws shall be considered amended upon the Squadron's adoption or amendment of any policy.

Section 4. The adoption of a policy by the Squadron shall be by the simple majority vote of members present at any Squadron meeting. Amendments to policies shall be as specified by each policy. If a policy does not specifically provide for amendments, then such policy may be amended by the simple majority vote of members present at any Squadron meeting.

ARTICLE XIII AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at any regular Squadron meeting by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present; provided however, that the proposed amendment shall have been presented at the immediately preceding Squadron meeting and published in writing to all members by or on the date of the preceding Squadron meeting.

Section 2. Any amendment to the National or Detachment Constitutions of the Sons of The American Legion which is in conflict with any provision hereof shall be regarded as automatically repealing or modifying the provisions of this Constitution, to the extent of such conflict.